

T-BIRD TIMES

A Publication of the Iola-
Scandinavia School District

March 2024

Cut Footloose!

Annual I-S musical a smash hit

Inside

- Referendum Information
- School Updates
- Booster Club Update

District Update

Iola-Scandinavia School District takes a step toward enhanced safety, security and maintenance needs with \$2.3 million spring capital referendum question

In an effort to prioritize the safety of its students and staff, the Iola-Scandinavia School District has recently embarked on a major endeavor. With the unanimous approval of the Board of Education, the district has initiated a \$2.3 million capital referendum to enhance safety and security across the district buildings as well as updating school maintenance needs. This comprehensive plan aims to build a stronger foundation for a safer, comfortable, stable learning environment.

Community engagement and support for the referendum

The success of any referendum relies heavily on community engagement and support. The Iola-Scandinavia School District has actively sought to involve the community in the decision-making process regarding the \$2.3 million referendum with a community survey initiated this fall.

Through this survey the district has received overwhelming support from parents, teachers, and community members who recognize the importance of investing in the safety, security and maintenance of their schools. The community understands that a safe learning environment is essential for students to excel academically and emotionally. The results of this survey can be found on the district website.

The need for enhanced safety and security in schools

In recent years, schools across the country have experienced unfortunate incidents that highlight the need for enhanced safety and security measures. Acts of violence and unauthorized access to school premises have raised concerns among parents and educators alike. It is crucial for schools

to stay ahead of potential threats and take proactive measures to ensure the safety of their students and staff.

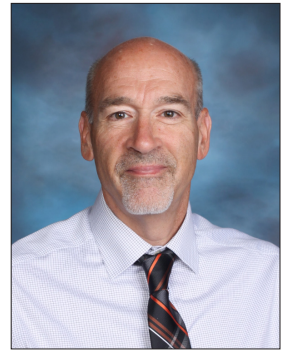
The Iola-Scandinavia School District, like many others, believes that prevention is key. By investing in safe and secure entrances they aim to deter potential threats and provide a safer environment for everyone on campus. The presence of surveillance cameras, crisis planning, and safety training are already in place. Securing our entrances and providing updated interior doors will not only enhance security measures that we have in place, but will also provide a sense of reassurance to students, teachers, and parents.

The need for maintenance projects

Alongside the safety and security enhancements, the capital referendum will also address much-needed maintenance projects within the school district. Over time, wear and tear can take a toll on the infrastructure of school buildings, affecting the learning environment and overall functionality. By allocating part of the funds towards maintenance projects, the district ensures that the school facilities are well-maintained and conducive to learning. Maintenance projects will include repairing roofs, updating heating systems, and replacing inefficient windows and doors. These improvements not only contribute to the safety and functionality of the buildings but also enhance the overall educational experience for students and teachers.

Key features of the safety, security and maintenance upgrades

The safety, security, and maintenance upgrade projects proposed by the \$2.3 million capital referendum are designed to create a safe and efficient environment. The key features of these upgrades include:



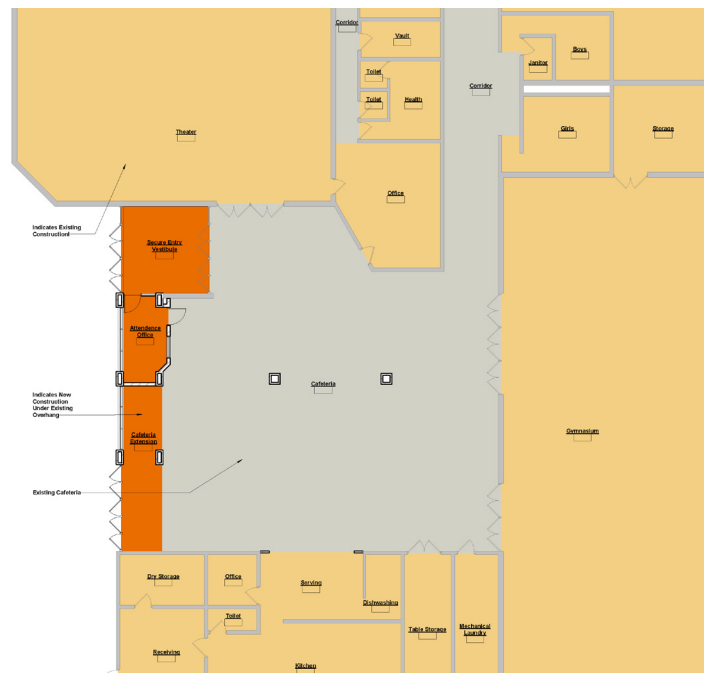


1. A safe and secure remodel of the main entrance of the middle/high school.
2. New boilers at the Middle/High School and HVAC control system: The current boilers are original to the building in 1979.
3. Replace exterior windows at the Elementary School. Many of the windows are single pane and are original to the building.
4. Replace interior doors. Many doors have large windows that are not shatter proof.
5. Repair and replace roofs on sections of various district buildings

Addressing concerns and misconceptions about the referendum

As with any major undertaking, concerns and misconceptions may arise regarding the \$2.3 million referendum. It is important to address these concerns to ensure transparency and understanding within the community.

One common concern is the cost of the referendum and its potential impact on property taxes. While it is true that the referendum will require



funding, the school district has estimated that the tax impact on a \$100,000 property to be an additional \$25 per year. Additionally, the long-term benefits of enhanced safety and security, as well as improved school facilities, outweigh the initial investment.

What Will This Referendum Cost Me And My Family?



Iola-Scandinavia School District Property Tax Mill Rates Historical Rates and Projected Impact



Impact On Homeowner



\$0.25 Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value Annually

Example
A Homeowner of a \$200,000 Property Would Pay An Additional \$50 Per Year

The voting process and timeline for the referendum

The voting process for the \$2.3 million referendum will follow the established protocols for school district referendums. The community will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed referendum on April 2, 2024

The school district will provide ample information to the community regarding the voting process, including the timeline for the referendum and the entire scope of the project. This will ensure that all eligible voters are aware of the projects and have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

As we approach April, the school district will continue to engage with the community, address concerns, and provide information to ensure transparency and understanding. The successful implementation of the \$2.3 million referendum will pave the way for a brighter and safer future for the Iola-Scandinavia School District.

Chris Nelson
District Administrator
Iola-Scandinavia School District

VOTE



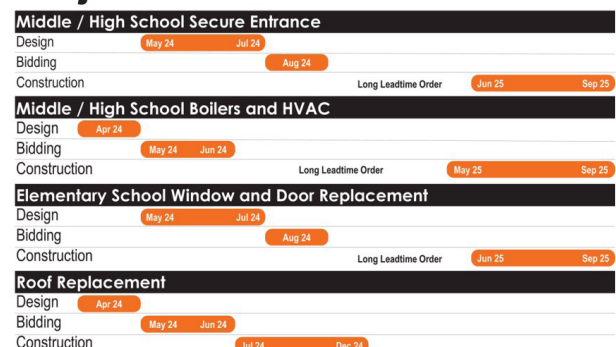
4/2/24

Shall the School District of Iola-Scandinavia, Waupaca and Portage Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$2,300,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a district-wide school facility improvement project consisting of: building systems, infrastructure, safety and security improvements, including remodeling for secure main entrances; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?

☐ YES ☐ NO

IOLA.K12.WI.US/PAGE/REFERENDUM

Project Schedule



High School Update

It is hard to believe that one full semester has passed already. I have found that one of my favorite things about being an administrator is visiting classrooms. Sometimes my visits are scheduled, other times I just happen to be walking by. Sometimes I'm observing students, other times I am observing the teacher. Sometimes, and these are the best times, the students are in the middle of presenting information and sharing with their classmates what they have learned.

That happened to me recently when I went into Ms. Hoffman's English 10 class. Her students had completed a research project and were presenting their findings in small groups. I was particularly interested in the number of students who chose to research the effects of social media on teenagers. Jean Twenge, a research psychologist, in her book *iGen*, states "The teen mental health crisis is a direct result of the rise of smartphones and social media."

Knowing that statistics have linked the two, I was interested to get a teenager's take on the effects of social media sites like TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook, and Instagram.

I invited some English 10 students to share their findings with me. Caige W. found that there are some definite advantages of using social media. She mentioned that social media sites are a great way to gather information like learning a new hobby or getting tips on how to deal with a medical diagnosis or disorder. Addyson H. saw using these sites as a wonderful way to communicate and stay connected with family and friends. Emily P. spoke about how many sites help promote small businesses and can provide a source of income. The sites are an outlet for the user's creativity and can inspire others.

With all of these wonderful things happening on social media sites, how can there be a direct link to the deterioration of teenage mental health? Social media usage has a dark side. Cedarlyn

O. cited the ease with which teenagers cyberbully other teenagers. They feel like no one is watching them. It's easy to hide behind a screen. Addyson H. said that users have a fear of being left out. They get addicted and have to stay up-to-date and on their phones all the time.



Cedarlyn O. agrees. Users are losing sleep and their education is at risk because they need to be checking their phone. Ariel E. shared how there is a lot of false information on social media sites. People's opinions are presented as fact. Using social media sites can be very isolating.

Social media sites are not going away anytime soon. What should teens and parents do to mitigate the negative impact of usage? Limiting screen time was mentioned by all the students I spoke with. Students do not need to be on their phones as much as they are.

To improve mental health it is necessary to interact and make connections with others face-to-face. Ariel E. mentioned the research that shows that phones should be put down two hours before going to bed. Requiring that phones be kept outside of the bedroom during sleep is helpful too so that there is no temptation to check it when you should be sleeping.

I appreciate these students sharing their learning with me so that I could share it with you. Like so many other things in life, social media usage can be a positive experience when done in moderation. As the adult in a developing young person's life please take an active role in monitoring your child's social media usage.

Jan Bue-Wells
High School/Middle School Principal

Elementary School Update

As we welcome the month of March, we are excited to celebrate the arrival of a truly lucky time of year! March has long been associated with luck, good fortune, and the promise of new beginnings, making it a perfect opportunity to embrace positivity and opportunity!

We are thrilled to announce that our exciting summer school program is quickly approaching! This program is designed to provide students with enriching and fun-filled educational experiences during the months of June and August during summer break.

Our summer program will offer a diverse range of engaging activities, creative workshops, and outdoor adventures for students currently in grades 4K - 11th grade. Whether it's hands-on science experiments, artistic exploration, sports activities, or literacy camps, there will be something for everyone to enjoy!! We encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to keep your child's mind active and engaged over the summer.

Our dedicated team of educators is committed to creating a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment where every child can learn, grow, and have a blast. Stay tuned for the official program schedule, registration details, and exciting updates in the coming weeks. Mark your calendars for June 10 -28 and August 1 - 12. Let's make this summer an unforgettable learning journey for our students!

Our classes are working hard right now as we get ready to enter the last trimester of the school year. Our 3rd -6th grade students are preparing for the Forward Exam. The Forward Exam is a part of the Wisconsin Student Assessment System and is a required assessment for all students. Students in grades 3-6 take the Forward Exam online in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, in Science and Social Studies in grade

4. The Forward Exam is an online summative assessment that measures what students know in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. Our students in grades 3 - 6 will be taking the exam April 8 - 19.



Helping your child do well on local and state assessments involves creating a supportive environment, fostering good study habits, and encouraging a positive attitude toward learning. Here are some recommendations for elementary parents:

Establish a Consistent Routine

- Set a regular bedtime to ensure they get enough sleep, as rest is crucial for cognitive function.

Promote Healthy Lifestyle Habits

- Ensure your child eats a nutritious diet to support brain function.
- Encourage regular physical activity to reduce stress and improve focus.

Practice Test-Taking Skills

- Familiarize your child with the format of the state assessments through practice tests or sample questions.
- Teach strategies such as time management, reading instructions carefully, and answering all questions.

Promote a Growth Mindset

- Encourage a positive attitude toward challenges and mistakes.
- Emphasize that learning is a process, and improvement is achievable through effort and perseverance.

Celebrate Achievements

- Acknowledge and celebrate your child's

Food Service Update

Iola-Scandinavia is participating in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast program for the entirety of the 2023-24 school year. This means that meals provided will be charged to students based on their eligibility for free, reduced price or paid.



Students that are eligible for reduced meals will receive breakfast at no charge. Households are encouraged to apply for free or reduced price meal benefits at any time throughout the year.

We are dealing with very few challenges this year in regards to nationwide supply chain and product availability. Some food and beverage products

don't always arrive as scheduled, or do not arrive at all, but it has improved throughout the year. Due to these unforeseen circumstances, last-minute menu changes and product substitutions may occur. Be assured meals will remain balanced, healthy, and plentiful. We ask for patience and understanding as we do our best to meet your children's needs.

Breakfast and lunch menus are posted on the District website, Facebook page and the "Dining" section on the District's app. Please contact me at (715) 445-2411 ext. 1430 or pedersend@iola.k12.wi.us with questions.

We hope everyone has a relaxing spring break from all of us in Food Service!

Diane Pedersen
Food Service Director

achievements, both big and small.

- Use positive reinforcement to motivate continued effort and commitment.

Manage Test-Day Stress

Help your child manage test anxiety through relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing or visualization.

Ensure they have a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast on the day of the assessment.

Model a Love for Learning

- Demonstrate your own enthusiasm for learning by engaging in educational activities and discussions.
- Share your experiences of overcoming challenges and the importance of continuous learning.

Spring Break is scheduled for March 23 - March

31. School will be closed during that time, and classes will resume on Monday, April 1.

I would also like to thank all of the members of our community that support our school. It's helpful to have you in our school working with students, helping our teachers and our staff. Your support is much appreciated! It truly is what makes I-S Elementary such a great place.

May this month bring you an abundance of happiness, success, and unexpected opportunities. Embrace the luck of March, and let's make the most of every fortunate moment that comes our way!

Thank you for all you do to support your children's education. Go Thunderbirds!

Stacey Wester
Elementary School Principal

Booster Club Update

Spring has sprung! The spring sports teams have started practicing and the winter sports and musical are done for another year. As we usher out the 2023-2024 school year, the Thunderbird Booster Club would like to thank all of those members for their support! The Booster Club supports ALL co-curricular activities in the Iola-Scandinavia School District.

To give everyone an idea of where their membership dues go, let's recap the winter 2023-2024 season. All students and staff received a long sleeve t-shirt featuring the Booster Club emblem. The Booster Club supported the students going on the Spanish Trip, assisted with costs for DECA events which included District and International competitions, High School Quiz Bowl shirts, and a winter break party for students in the High School/Middle School. They also sponsored the yearbook through advertising purchases and donated extra funds to ensure all kids receive a yearbook.



The Booster Club helped cover costs for the ISHS Post Prom, the musical, and sponsored Parents/Senior night for winter sports. In addition to funds, the Booster Club paid out over 280 volunteer hours for concession stand workers at winter sporting events.

Next up is our Spring Fundraiser! We will be raffling off four Adirondack chairs and a fire pit. Students will receive a percentage of their ticket sales back to put towards their individual account for athletics, trips, and competitions. The drawing will be held on Friday, May 10 at the Spring Fine Arts Festival. Please consider purchasing tickets or becoming a Booster Club member and continuing the tradition of support for the Iola-Scandinavia students!

Follow the Booster Club on Facebook at @ThunderbirdBoosterClub or visit www.thunderbirdboosterclub.com. Go Thunderbirds!



Music Program Update

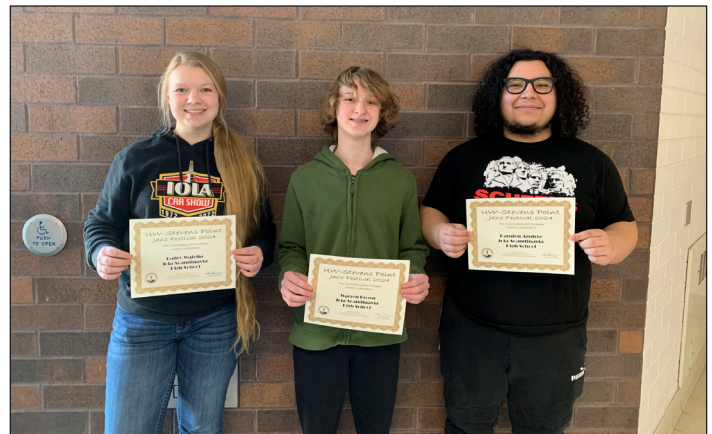
The music department has continued to stay busy throughout the winter and as we head into spring! On Friday, February 2, the high school jazz band took a trip to the UW-Stevens Point Jazz Festival. They performed two pieces of music for some adjudicators and received verbal and written feedback. The students received high praise, and three students received "Outstanding Jazz Musician" awards! This is the jazz band's first year and they have been meeting Tuesday mornings at 7 a.m.



February 16-18 the musical production of "Footloose" took place with numerous sold out shows! It was a huge success and the students worked incredibly hard and it showed. Thank you to all of you that came out to support the show!

February 24 was District Solo and Ensemble. We had over 65 students in middle and high school band and choir participate! Congratulations to Rayanne Clendenning, Abigail Bergan, Lara Palmer, Bethany Schmoldt, Brylee Jueds, Scarlet Wiskirchen, Ryan Kampert, Damien Aguirre, Warren Brown, Racer Schrank, Emmett Danielson, Brady Kuhns, Gage Schrank, Jessica Schmoldt, Isaac Ehlinger, Olivia Thiel, Willow Otremba, Ella Thompson, and Kelly Jones for qualifying for State. They will perform on Saturday, May 4, at UW-Stevens Point.

On April 26, the High School band will be traveling to Kaukauna to participate in a WSMA Large Group Concert Festival. This is essentially like Solo and Ensemble but for the full band. Each group is required to perform at least one piece of music off a specific list and then perform additional pieces of their own choosing that are at the same level of difficulty. An adjudicator will use a rubric to score the band and then also give them verbal feedback. This will be a great op-



portunity to showcase our hard working students and music program to other schools.

The high school band and choir are planning to take another trip in the Spring of 2025. Information and details about the destination will be coming soon and a parent meeting will be announced as well! Look for emails from Mr. Shulfer and Mr. Landon in the near future.

Please come join the middle and high school bands and choirs on Friday, May 10, at the High School Auditorium for their Spring Fine Arts Festival. There will be student artwork on display as well! Times to be announced!



Front Left to Right: Kellen Burkley, Livianna Henriksen, Baylee Donovan, Maddie Kirmse, Gianna Fredy, Vivian Stelse, Julia Munoz, Madeline Much, Maggie Williams, Jessica Schmoldt, Maci Heschke.

Middle Left to Right: Myah Heschke, McKenzie Bonikowske, Kyleigh Knutson, Rayelynn Wasrud, Brooklyn Berrens, Ava Printz, Brylee Jueds, Avah Weinreis.

Back Left to Right: Ryan Kampert, Burkley Myers, Izyck Olson, Billy Myers, Abby Isermann, Bethany Schmoldt, RJ Opperman, Carter Melum, Charlie Tappa, Jordynn Sullivan, Hailey Johnson, Paige Timdal, Bailey Walejko.

Not shown: Kylee Noack.

National Honor Society

Thirteen students were inducted into membership of the National Honor Society in a ceremony at Iola-Scandinavia High School, on Thursday, March 7.

There are currently 34 members in the Iola-Scandinavia High School National Honor Society. We will have 10 members graduate at the end of the school year. Members of the Iola-Scandinavia High School National Honor Society are selected by the school faculty for meeting standards of scholarship, service, leadership and character.

Students inducted this year were senior Madeline Much; juniors Bailey Walejko, Hailey Johnson, and Jordynn Sullivan; and sophomores Brooklyn Berrens, Brylee Jueds, RJ Opperman, Ava Printz, Charlie Tappa, Paige Timdal, Avah Weinreis, and Maggie Williams. Initiates

received a membership card, pin, and certificate.

Students were also recognized for continued membership with a certificate. Seniors Gianna Fredy, Maci Heschke, Myah Heschke, Abby Isermann, Maddie Kirmse, Kyleigh Knutson, Carter Melum, Julia Munoz, Vivian Stelse, Rayelynn Wasrud, and juniors McKenzie Bonikowske, Kellen Burkley, Baylee Donovan, Livianna Henriksen, Ryan Kampert, Billy Myers, Burkley Myers, Kylee Noack, Izyck Olson, Bethany Schmidt, and Jessica Schmidt all received this honor.

The NHS officers and members, Julia Munoz, Gianna Fredy, and Abby Isermann spoke about three of the pillars of National Honor Society: Scholarship, Service, and Character. Our guest speaker, Mr. Scott Tappa, spoke about leadership.